

Something stinks, Russ

On November 4, voters in four provincial ridings, including Premier Russell MacLellan's Cape Breton North riding and Dalhousie's riding of Halifax Citadel, will head to the polls to elect representatives for the remainder of the Liberal's term in office. While this show of democracy on behalf of Premier MacLellan and his Liberals is admirable, one has to wonder why everyone else isn't going to the polls.

MacLellan does have to call an election by the end of the spring of 1998 anyway, and the four newly-elected MLAs will again have to hit the campaign trail.

Something smells fishy.

MacLellan, at the expense of Nova Scotian taxpayers, is stretching his term as long as he is legally allowed. He must be hoping that in this short span of time he can correct the wrongs committed by his predecessor, John Savage, paint a rosy picture of the Liberals, and ride into power.

Well, good luck Russ.

Sure, there was a bit of public euphoria following Savage's resignation, but that had nothing to do with MacLellan. Anyone could have replaced Savage to increase public support — that didn't mean

it was going to last. And MacLellan's road has been getting steadily rockier since he was elected as the Liberal leader in July.

Several of his election promises, such as the scrapping of toll highways in the Wentworth Valley, have proven to be shams. And his answers to public concerns over these "promises" have reeked of typical, old-style politics.

So he'll use the next six months to both improve his image and heap blame upon Savage for any pot holes he's going to run into along the way.

Political opportunism seems to be the name of the game.

After all, MacLellan traded an eighteen year career in federal politics for a chance to be the leader of the Nova Scotian Liberals — and in this case our premier.

Was it because he had a burning, altruistic desire to serve Nova Scotians as best he could, or because he foresaw the ousting of every Nova Scotian Liberal MP in the June federal election, and decided to jump ship?

Remember, this is the same man who sat timidly on the backbenches in Ottawa while Jean Chretien cut millions of dollars of funding to the Atlantic provinces. As an MP from Cape Breton, one of the poorest

areas of Canada, one would expect more from MacLellan than feeble acceptance of the party doctrine.

Remember too that MacLellan has no leadership experience whatsoever, aside from the crash-course he's been getting since July.

And the public has not once voted for MacLellan as our premier; only registered members of the Liberal party have done that.

Yes, the Liberals have a mandate allowing them to remain in office six months longer (no matter who the leader is), but with the previous Liberal government being so ineffective and unresponsive to the needs of the public, shouldn't all Nova Scotians finally get their say?

According to Russ, no.

So, instead of putting himself on the line to the whole province, he's staging four useless by-elections; six-month terms for the winners and a waste of public money for everyone else.

But MacLellan is putting himself on the line in Cape Breton North, and hopefully voters there will put his political ambitions to rest.

Then perhaps the only opportunities left for Russ will be through patronage...

GREG MCFARLANE

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will hold its

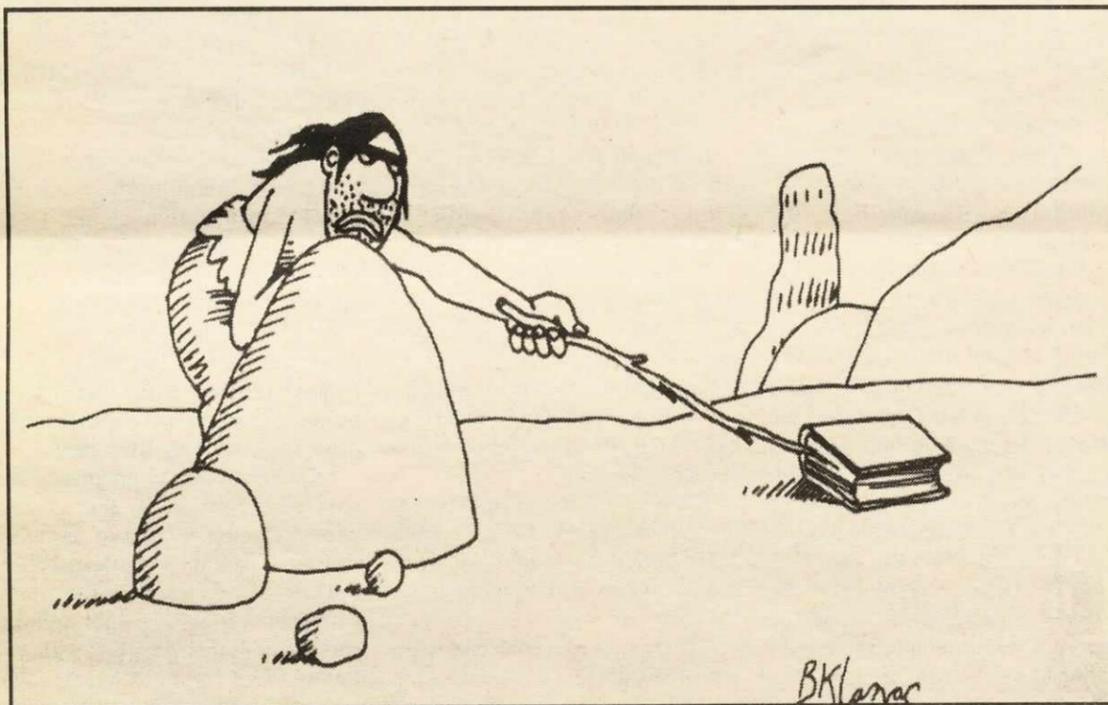
Annual General Meeting in the student union council chambers at 7:00 pm, Thursday October 30th, 1997.

The agenda includes:

- election of board members
- passing of the 1997-1998 budget

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Refreshments will be served.



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